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January 22, 2004

To: Each Supervisor

From: Dave Lambertson, Interim Director, Internal Services Department *DL*
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff *LB*
P. Michael Freeman, Chief, Fire Department *PMF*
Margaret York, Chief, Office of Public Safety *MY*

Subject: **ADVANCE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH RCC CONSULTANTS, INC.**

In accordance with Board policy, this letter provides advance notification to your Board of our intent to enter into sole source contract negotiations with RCC Consultants, Inc. for technical consulting services. Services obtained via the proposed contract will support development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consolidated wireless communication and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems for Fire, Sheriff and the Office of Public Safety.

Due to the size and complexities of the subsequent RFP, outside legal counsel will be required. Additionally, we will be seeking your Board's approval of a future separate vendor contract to provide project management and oversight services to assist in the evaluation and award of proposal(s), and to provide quality assurance oversight throughout the new system implementation phase, if approved.

BACKGROUND

RCC Consultants Inc. was initially selected through a competitive solicitation process and awarded a Board approved contract on September 19, 2000 "to study and make recommendations for replacing the Fire and Sheriff Radio Communications systems." The new system would replace two existing and nearly obsolete radio systems with a single modern radio system providing extensive voice and data services, improving coverage throughout the County. The contract contained provisions for the Phase I study, as well as an option for Phase II consultant services to provide support in RFP development for a new system.

Phase I has been successfully concluded and we are planning to start Phase II. RCC Consultants Inc. has recommended implementing a consolidated radio communications system for Fire, Sheriff and Office of Public Safety. The cost of such a system excluding the first round of portable equipment replacement was estimated at \$406 Million and could be expected to take about 7-12 years to complete. This estimate also excludes any additional staffing costs required for the Phase II RFP and Phase III Implementation. Final project costs over the estimated 7-12 year implementation

period, including staffing, and system maintenance and replacement of portable equipment (funded by the end user departments), will be finalized during the RFP process.

Although the original agreement provided for two one-year extensions, the contract was allowed to lapse after the preliminary cost estimates for three proposed designs were determined to be far more expensive than anyone anticipated and due to the uncertainty of the funding. Work must now proceed to the next phase because of current system obsolescence and looming Federal mandates that cannot be avoided.

OBSOLESCENCE AND FEDERAL MANDATES

The Fire and Sheriff Departments' present communications systems are nearly obsolete and are increasingly difficult to maintain. The electronic technology is more than twenty years old and some equipment is more than twenty-five years old. The Sheriff and Fire Mobile Digital Terminal (MDT) portion of the two systems is obsolete and vendors no longer provide replacement parts and equipment. Both systems are becoming overloaded due to increasing population in North County cities and unincorporated areas, and additional Sheriff and Fire stations, personnel and radio units. The two present systems cannot support any new requirements such as vehicle location, "mug shot" to vehicles, live video, hazardous material locations, floor plans, street maps, data networking and automated fingerprint matching.

Furthermore, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has issued new rules to establish more efficient use for the radio frequency spectrum. Each old channel was divided into two new channels with half the bandwidth. The new channels require the use of new narrowband radios. The FCC will no longer accept new wideband equipment, only narrowband equipment. Existing systems are required to migrate onto narrowband equipment, replacing the old wideband radio equipment that will soon be unavailable.

The County, in order to protect itself from other licensees, applied for and obtained narrowband channel licenses for all the frequencies currently used by the Sheriff and Fire Departments. While this doubled the number of desperately needed channels for both departments, the FCC requires the Sheriff and Fire to implement new systems to use the narrowband channels within five (5) years from the date the licenses were issued. An extension was granted for the County to complete the conversion by June 2006. An FCC mandate starting in 2008 precludes any manufacture of old wideband equipment and replacement parts. With such a complex project and lengthy implementation up to 7-12 years, it is not prudent to further delay planning for this project.

If the County does not begin Phase II and subsequently implement the new system, our licenses could be revoked and granted to other agencies or private businesses. These channels are extremely valuable. Replacement channels might be impossible to obtain in the future, since the FCC's policy is to auction off the remaining spectrum that is available.

SOLE SOURCE NEGOTIATIONS

The Internal Services Department on behalf of the Fire, Sheriff and the Office of Public Safety Departments intends to enter into sole source negotiations with RCC Consultants Inc. for Phase II tasks. RCC Consultants has proprietary knowledge as a result of their Phase I study that will allow the Request for Proposal (RFP) development to proceed rapidly. An RFP is the best way to determine the actual costs for the replacement radio system and will invite creative alternate designs and financing proposals.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Funding has been committed by the Fire and Sheriff Departments to cover the anticipated cost of the RCC Contract for Phase II, estimated at \$476,000 based on the prior agreement. The Office of Public Safety will pay the ISD costs not to exceed \$25,000 for establishing the agreement with RCC.

In accordance with your Board's policy sole source contract negotiations will begin two weeks from the date of this memo and we will return to the Board once negotiations are complete. If your staff has any questions, please contact Mark Gascoigne, ISD's Information Technology Service General Manager, at (562) 940-2901.

DL:tml

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Information Officer
Director, Department of Human Resources